

# THE PARISH OF LONG POINT BAY




PORT ROWAN ♦ PORT RYERSE ♦ TURKEY POINT ♦ VITTORIA ♦ ST. JOHN'S WOODHOUSE

## Sunday March 20th 2022 Third Sunday of Lent

**3rd Sunday of Lent: Repent or Perish**

- Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9 **Jesus said: Repent or Perish** (To perish means to die)
- **Jesus told the Parable of the Fig Tree:** "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'" - **Who is the gardener?**



Wednesday, March 6, 13

### Opening

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

### Sentence

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

### Collect

Father of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Readings

ISAIAH 55:1-9;

PSALM 63:1-8;

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13;

LUKE 13:1-9

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2022-03-20&submit=show+new+date>

## Reflection for Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 from Rev Justin Comber

You've heard the fire and brimstone sermons, the ones that say, "something is coming, but you're not going to like it. In these sermons, God is the cruel enemy, the smiter of the smitten, the angry hand whose way we'd best avoid, that great enemy who is our tenuous friend only because the opposite is terrifying. God's name is salvation, sure, but that God isn't one that you'd really want too close, either. They do get one thing right. There is something coming. The kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus is coming. But is this a promise or a threat?

With this week's passages in mind, I think it's best to skip right to the end. To the end of the end. To the last words of the book of Revelation where we hear what God has to say about all of this. And here it is; "The spirit and the bride say "come," let everyone who hears say "come." Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift."

Listen closely and you'll hear invitation; even the invitation to spread wide the invitation. Those words should sound familiar. We've heard something very like them today, quite clearly from the prophet Isaiah, but also in a way from Jesus' parable of the fig tree.

The prophet Isaiah, from our reading this morning, extends this invitation to the people on the edge of exile. Here are the people that might expect the fire in brimstone sermon. But here, amidst the promises of reward for faithfulness and even warnings against unfaithfulness, God's people are offered invitation. Come, if you're thirsty, come and drink good water. Come and drink milk and wine without money and without price. This is what God offers. Wherever you are, come. Why buy what isn't bread? Come and eat forever and freely. Why work for things that will not satisfy? Come and have life, rich and abundant. There's something coming. But that something is good, and that something is free. In Isaiah, we are offered the invitation to abandon death for life, fruitless labour for rich provision. In the same way, our Lenten fast is an invitation to let go of food that leaves us hungry, and to abandon pursuits that do not satisfy; to accept the gracious gift of life.

Jesus' parable of the fig tree is, on the surface, a little more threatening. Here we see death, we see the death of those who were murdered in the temple, we see the deaths of those who died in battle, and we are given the image of a dying fig tree. But the parable is not a threat. You are dying, Jesus says. Everyone dies. The people that have died before are not more worthy of judgement than you are. Look, Jesus says, and I'll show you a dying tree. It's like you. It will die where it stands. It bears no fruit because it is dry and without nutrient. If you see a tree like that, you dig up the soil, not the tree. Feed and water it. Give it your best. Pile on the fertilizer, give it your time, see if you can bring it back to life, give it what it needs to bear good fruit. That's what God is like. Here we are offered a parable of invitation, of the persistence of a God in the image of a gardener. God is willing to spend lavishly to bring what is dying back to life, to offer what has failed to grow the chance to thrive and bear good fruit.

And so, we hear the prophet say "Come," to Israel. We hear Jesus tell the story of a gardener who will tend a to failing root. Pour out good food and drink, the God of Isaiah promises. Pour out food and fertilizer to revive what is lost, says the gardener of the parable.

And in our Lenten fast, we approach the cross where Jesus pours out himself, our Lenten food and drink, our Christian bread and wine as an invitation to come, to receive the good gift of life, a gift given freely and without consideration of cost.

There is something coming. That something is good. The message of lent its the message of salvation, but it is not a threat. God is not best avoided at all costs. The opposite is true. God invites. God sacrifices self for us. God offers what is rich, lush, and satisfying. The call to repent, to turn away is itself a kind of invitation. It is a gift of grace. Let go of what is not good. Stop paying for bread that does not satisfy and for labour that does not give life. Salvation is coming, and the Spirit of the God, who has made the way, says "come."

The Rev'd Dr. Justin Comber  
Rector, Parish of the Transfiguration  
(519) 809-9452

[justincomber@diohuron.org](mailto:justincomber@diohuron.org)  
[parishofthetransfiguration.net](http://parishofthetransfiguration.net)

## Prayers for Sunday March 20th

### A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen

*Archbishop Justin Welby*  
*Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*



We pray especially for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia, AD Rick Jones, Rev Enrique Martinez, and Rev Jack Cox.

For the week beginning Sunday 20 March 2022, we will be praying for the **Rev. Paul Silcox**, the Rev. Jack Cox and the people of **Grace Church, Brantford**.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale F, Rose G, Julie, Carol M., George F., Carol H., Bud W. Juanita K. Mary B. Sabrina S Colin C. his father Michael, Pat A. and all their families and anyone known to you, silently or aloud

Remember as well our shut-ins June, Shirley & John, Iris, Julie, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B

It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at [lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or Enrique at [enrique6921@gmail.com](mailto:enrique6921@gmail.com)

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them let us know and we will add to the list

### **Prayer of Confession**

Search us O God and know our hearts today  
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,  
see if there are any hurtful ways in us  
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

### **Words of Assurance**

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.  
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others  
Amen

### **Closing Prayer**

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

### **Doxology**

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video**

<https://youtu.be/28h4htN2Xdg>

This video is dedicated to Janice Schultz (Nov 7, 2021) of Woodhouse.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In house worship today St John's Port Rowan at 10 am

All in person services to be determined – I will send schedule as soon as decided

### Bi-Weekly newspaper

Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. A delicious recipe you want to us all to enjoy. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique or myself and we can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in April– Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in this special occasion section, please send me details.



## Sing along to this mornings Hymns

### Hymn Texts – Sunday, March 20, 2022

Today's hymns were chosen by Grant Schultz, parishioner of St. John's Woodhouse, as favourites dedicated in loving memory of his wife Janice who passed away on November 7, 2021.

#### **24 – Abide with Me**

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see:  
O thou, who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour;  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

#### **352 – Amazing Grace**

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found: was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.**

**Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at [enrique6921@gmail.com](mailto:enrique6921@gmail.com) or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique's day off will be Fridays**

**Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at [lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or by phone @ 519-586-7034**

**Please visit our website [parishoflongpointbay.com](http://parishoflongpointbay.com) and Facebook page**